



Welcome AEF 9/10

The Red Tail Flyer is looking for comments, questions and suggestions from Balad's Airmen. Send your ideas to redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil.

Mission Complete: Add on armor shop closes

By Staff Sgt. Kevin Nichols
U.S. Central Command Air Forces News Team

Balad Air Base's 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness add-on armor shop will apply armor to its last vehicle this week.

To date, the shop's Airmen have armored more than 1,300 vehicles.

"I'm always glad people are going to have armored trucks because, who knows, next time it might be me out there," said Staff Sgt. Kenneth Pease, a vehicle maintainer with the shop.

Insurgents have been attacking Airmen and Soldiers with roadside improvised explosive devices since the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom, demonstrating the need for extra armor on convoy vehicles.

Since then, Airmen here have been helping to protect convoys and the people who ride in them by installing extra armor to each vehicle.

We're leaving a legacy of making convoys safer on the outside, and saving lives on the inside, Sergeant Pease said.

"There's nothing better than that, I think," he added. "It's the best part about it."

The need for the add-on armor shop is dwindling since vehicles are coming to Iraq with up-armor kits already on them.

The add-on armor shop's work doesn't go unnoticed and is not taken for granted, especially by Tech. Sgt. Andrew Morin, a 732nd ELRS convoy commander who runs convoys daily. He has been attacked and shot at and said the armor has displayed its worth.

Airman 1st Class Jose Maneiro, 732nd ELRS, said he gets positive feedback from the people he meets.

"Sometimes people at the dining facilities ask what I do," he said. "When I explain, they (really appreciate it.) That is my real reward."

Sergeant Morin said not only was his life saved by the armor, but countless others' lives were saved as well.

"Many of the convoys have been hit even harder by big IEDs or some pretty serious small-arms fire," he said. "Nobody (in my convoy has been) hurt and they've taken some pretty good hits. So this stuff is pretty good."

(Right): Airman 1st Class Jose Maneiro, frees the driver side door of a 5-ton M939 tractor rig. The tractor is being stripped to receive a permanent add-on-armor kit.



Photos by Master Sgt. Lance Cheung



(Left): Airman 1st Class Roger Hild guides the upper portion of an add-on-armor cab for a truck tractor as it is placed on the lower armor plated cab section that has already been prepared with floor and firewall plating. The add-on-armor kit is a permanent modification that includes new air ride seats and air conditioning, since the convoys make few if any stops and protective windows are kept shut in the more than 100 degree summers.



Photo by Master Sgt. Lance Cheung

Airmen warriors ‘til the end

(From left) Tech. Sgt. Andrew Morin and Staff Sgts. Jeremy Garcia and Frank Stibler keep an eye on how a security team from C Battery 1-17 Field Artillery prepares convoy escort platforms and rehearses a "snatch and grab" procedure. They were the last Airmen of the 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron to participate in the Air Force combat convoy security team mission, which has now returned to the Army.

COMMANDER'S ACTION LINE

As a service for Balad Airmen, the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing operates the Commander's Action Line program. The line is a way for Balad Air Base members to get answers to questions or express concerns about life on the base. Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd AEW commander, gives action line queries his personal attention. The Red Tail Flyer will publish those items that are judged to be of general interest to the Balad Air Base population. In addition to using the commander's action line, Balad Airmen are asked to remember their chain of command when dealing with problems and concerns. The Commander's Action Line can be reached via e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. Those using the action line should include name, unit and phone number in case additional information is needed and for a timely response.

Brig. Gen. Frank Gorenc, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing commander, presents a coin to Senior Airman Donald Mitchell, 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jessica Fuentes

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<http://www.afnews.af.mil/iraq/baladarchive/current.pdf>

Security forces transformation: More than meets the eye

By Senior Airman J.G. Buzanowski
Air Force Print News

As the Air Force continues to adapt for the future, changes to the security forces career field will affect the total force.

Brig. Gen. Robert Holmes, director of security forces and force protection, calls these transformations a "refocus" on how his people train and fight.

"We're not in the Cold War anymore; we have to alter our mentality and our practices for today's reality," the general said. "Because of the nature of the threat, our Airmen are fighting the global war on terror on the front lines, and we owe it to them to provide training, equipment and resources to be effective."

Essentially security forces Airmen will focus on preparing for their warfighting mission at forward locations, as well as security at a fixed installation, General Holmes said.

As an example, he cited an Air Force Task Force that operated around Balad Air Base, Iraq, for two months last year. The unit patrolled the local towns and found weapons caches as well as individuals who posed a threat to the base.

"Our Airmen are going 'outside the wire' to conduct missions and are proving successful in keeping people safe," Gen. Holmes said. "Not only for the folks stationed at the base, but people who live and work in the local area as well. This is very important in the present war on terror."

Security forces Airmen must learn counter-insurgency techniques and in doing so, they'll operate more effectively in joint operations, said Maj. Gen. Norman Seip, assistant deputy chief of staff for air and space operations.



Photo by Master Sgt. Lance Cheung

Staff Sgt. Tony Rivera (front) and Senior Airman Darryll Morely (right) run for cover as Senior Airman Jason Bauer, simulates suppressive fire from the door of a C-130 during training at Balad Air Base, Iraq, Wednesday. The Airmen are all deployed to the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.

"We need to be prepared for a full-spectrum of threats against an air field," General Seip said. "That means taking more responsibility for defense of our mission, so our sister services can concentrate on

their own tasks. We need to understand how they operate, so we're working closely with the Army to identify additional ways to train our Airmen."

While security forces will focus more on their warfighting competencies, Air Force leaders are reviewing several options for installation protection duties, like entry control, at home stations. Plans call for more DoD civilians, greater affiliation with Guard and Reserve forces and better use of technologies, General Holmes said.

The changes to the security forces career field will present the opportunity for other Airman to participate in installation security. While that doesn't necessarily mean everyone will have a rotation checking

identification cards at a gate, it does mean more comprehensive training, awareness and capability to respond and participate, he said.

"Will every Airman be a cop? No. But every Airman will be a warrior," General Holmes said. "Every Airman needs to be trained in basic force protection skills and must be prepared to defend an air base and themselves in the event of an attack. This means more than just qualifying with a weapon. We want Airmen to be comfortable with their duty weapon and to develop their shooting skills."

While definitive plans have not been finalized, General Holmes also said one of the transformation goals is bringing security forces Airmen back in step with standard Air Force 120-day deployments.

"Right now our folks are going out for 179-day rotations," he said. "Our Airmen need time to reconstitute and train, so it's important to get them in line with the rest of the Air Force. We aim to do just that."

Overall, General Holmes said the changes would make security forces Airmen more effective and relevant to Air Force needs in the face of the current changing nature of warfare.

We want to make our Airmen more proficient, and to do that, we need to adapt," Gen. Holmes said. "We're going to change our training, our tactics and our procedures and the Air Force will be better for it."

Know what this is?



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Ridder

If you can identify the object, send us an e-mail at redtailflyer@blab.centaf.af.mil. Last week's photo was not correctly identified as a ceiling fan.



Courtesy photo

Silent Heroes

Master Sgt. David Bible, 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, is this week's "Silent Hero." He was chosen because he has been the focal point for the professional military education experience, "the Passport Tour," for the Top 3 Council. This program gives Airmen and Soldiers an idea of how their jobs fit into the larger mission of transitioning Iraq to democracy.

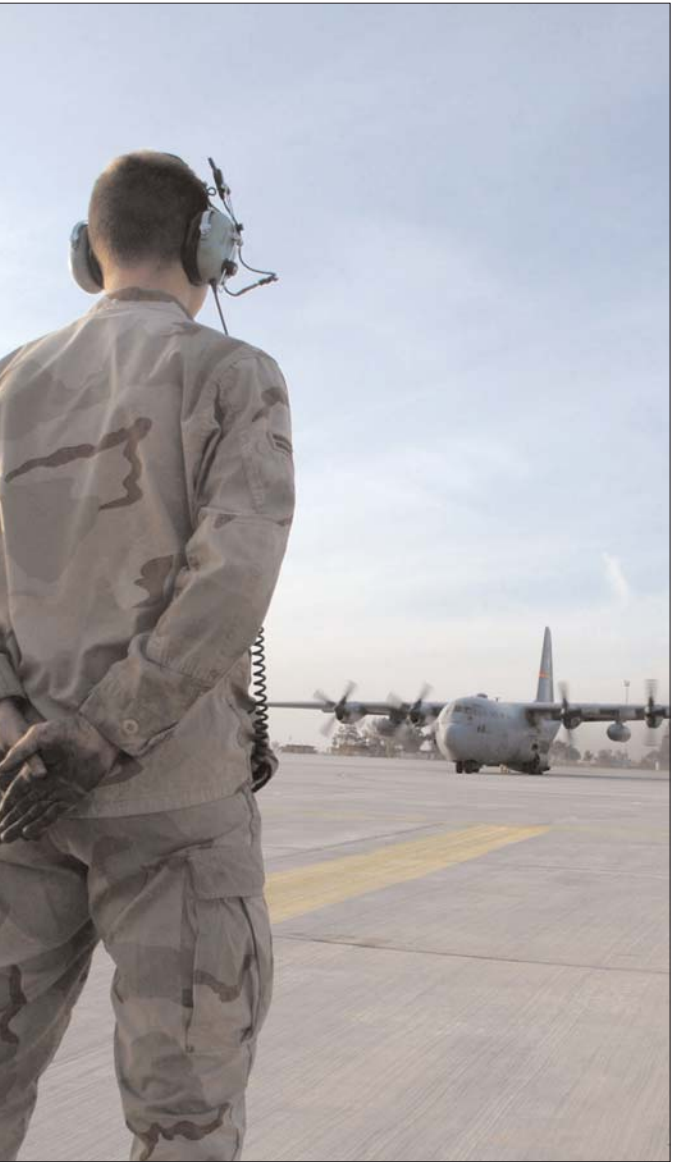
BALAD AIR BASE
UNIFORM
TIPS

Members are authorized to wear black or brown T-shirts under their DCUs. The black or brown turtleneck shirts or dickies and white, black, or brown thermal undershirts are also authorized. Tan shirts are not authorized. Additional, guidelines on T-shirts can be found in 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance Standards, section two.

Balad AB Religious Schedule

Protestant - Traditional Sundays 9:30 a.m. Provider Chapel, 10 a.m. Freedom Chapel, 5:30 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel	7:30 a.m. Hospital, 8 a.m. Provider Chapel Samoan Congregational Service Sundays 4 p.m. Provider Chapel
Protestant - Gospel Sundays 11 a.m. - Sustainer Indoor Theater, 11:30 Freedom Chapel, 7 p.m. - Provider Chapel	Roman Catholic Mass Mondays through Fridays 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel Saturdays 5 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel (4:45 p.m. Reconciliation)
Protestant- Praise and Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. Sustainer Indoor Theater, 6:30 p.m. Moral and Warfare Recreation Tent 29th SPT BN Sundays and Wednesdays 7 p.m. Freedom Chapel	Church of Christ Sunday 2 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel
Protestant - Contemporary Sundays 10 a.m. 299th FSB Tent Chapel, 11 a.m. Town Hall	Islamic Prayer Fridays 1:30 p.m. Provider Chapel
Latter Day Saints Sundays 1 p.m. Provider Chapel, 7 p.m. Tuskegee Chapel	Jewish Prayer Fridays 6:30 p.m. Provider Chapel Annex
Liturgical - Protestant Sundays	

'Triple sevens' report for duty



Airman 1st Class Jason Ridder
332 AEW Public Affairs

"The look of relief on the faces of the Soldiers and Airmen coming through the gates at the end of a convoy mission tells me how important our job is," said Lt. Col. Dan Dahger, commander of the organization that will soon be known as the 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron.

The 386th Expeditionary Operations Group, Detachment 1 has been providing intra-country airlift in Iraq for a few months and in that time the mission has grown at an amazing pace.

"The more cargo we can move by air, the less Soldiers and Airmen are exposed to the dangers of moving it over land," said Lt. Col. Steven Stater, out-going commander of Detachment 1.

The unit flies to more than a dozen locations in Iraq and Southwest Asia and has increased their pace of operations over the last few months. They have flown more than 1,000 sorties in the past three months and have increased their tons of cargo per sortie by 40 percent.

"The more convoys we keep off the road the better we feel about our mission," said Capt. Joe Bozarth, an instructor-navigator with the unit. "Now that we

are in Iraq, I feel that we can get things done faster and more efficiently."

Another unique aspect of the unit is the make-up of its people.

"Half of our aircrews are enlisted," said Colonel Dahger. "We make up the largest number of enlisted aircrew members at Balad."

The Airmen attached to the unit are all deployed here from the 463rd Airlift Group, Little Rock Air Force Base, Ark.

"The 463rd AG has been continuously deployed since October of 2001," said Colonel Dahger. "People rotate in and rotate out, but the unit keeps on going."

Colonel Dahger will have the opportunity to stand-up the 777th EAS for the third time in three years. Previously, he commanded the unit at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan, in 2004 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and at Ali Base, Iraq in 2005 where the squadron helped the Iraqi air force establish an airlift squadron of its own.

"I am extremely proud to be doing this for a third time," said Colonel Dahger. "Especially at Balad, so we can have the efficiency of doing airlift in Iraq and be where the rubber meets the road."

(Above): Airman 1st Class James Money, deployed here from the 463rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Little Rock Air Force Base prepares to marshal a C-130.

(Right): Senior Airman BJ Enos, 777th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron who is deployed from Little Rock Air Force Base, replaces defensive flares for a C-130 stationed here.



Photos by 1st Lt. Jonathan Quinlan

Det. 2632 Airmen display courage under fire

By Tech Sgt. Pamela Anderson
332 AEW Public Affairs

The Dec. 5 convoy mission was business as usual for members of the 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron, Detachment 2632. The line of about 20 vehicles was making its way back from Forward Operating Base Speicher hauling supplies for Kellogg Brown and Root, carefully maneuvering through Iraqi towns and watching for the unexpected on or near the roads ahead.

A standard convoy is made up of about 30 vehicles, five of which

are gun trucks that are positioned in the lead, at the rear and evenly between the supply trucks making up the rest of the convoy.

"It was a pretty uneventful trip," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Willson, 732 ELRS, Det. 2632 assistant convoy commander. "We had stopped for a possible IED earlier and that delayed us about two hours while we waited for (the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team) to come out and clear it."

Once the convoy got the call to proceed, they made their way toward Balad Air Base and just as they crossed the underpass south

of the downtown Balad market, they found themselves under attack.

The lead gun truck had already passed through the "kill zone" when shots were heard by those following behind him.

"The convoy exited 62A and I immediately heard gunshots," said Airman 1st Class Christian Jackson, 732 ELRS vehicle operator, who was the gunner on Gun Truck Two, which was vehicle number six in the convoy. "I looked left with my (night vision goggles) and saw numerous people firing weapons from about 50-75 yards off in the field. I turned

my .50 cal that direction and began to fire back."

About five vehicles back, in Gun Truck Three, Airman 1st Class Nicole O'Hara, 732 ELRS gunner, noticed tracer rounds coming from Gun Truck Two just as her troop commander, Sergeant Willson, tapped her leg and let her know that he had heard about enemy fire from the left via the radio.

"I then saw the area where Jackson was firing and saw the tracers being fired back at our convoy," Airman O'Hara said. "I zeroed in on the area through my NVGs and started laying down

suppressive fire. Sergeant Willson tapped on my leg again and tried to tell me that we had contact from the right also but I couldn't hear him over the engine, the weapons and the wind. All I heard was "get down" so I continued to lay suppressive fire to the left side as I lay as low as possible in my turret without obstructing my view."

Airmen Jackson and O'Hara continued to engage the enemy as the convoy continued to move through the kill zone at speeds of about 50 mph in hopes of avoiding more direct fire and any injury to its crew members.

"Everything happened in a matter of a minute, but it seemed like an hour," said Sergeant Willson.

The convoy traveled about a mile and a half outside the kill zone before pulling over and assessing the damage. Two KBR drivers were injured, three vehicles were damaged and one destroyed but when all was said and done, the convoy crew counted themselves lucky.

The enemy can't count itself as lucky. After the dust settled, Airmen Jackson and O'Hara were credited with killing all of the attacking insurgents.

Coming to terms with that reality hasn't been too difficult for either Airmen because they both said they were doing what they needed to do to protect their own.

"They shot at us first and were trying to take the lives of the people I work with," said Airman O'Hara. "We've been through so much, we're like a family and I would do anything to protect my family."

The 732nd ELRS will stand-down in a ceremony Tuesday. While the mission of the ELRS is coming to an end, they will leave behind a legacy of courage under fire.



Photos by Master Sgt. Lance Cheung

Airman Kevin Ingerick, Airman 1st Class Nicole O'Hara, Airman 1st Class Christian Jackson, and Staff Sgt. Christopher Willson provided convoy security as members of Detachment 2632, 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron.

332 AEW Monthly Award Winners

Airman of the Month:

Airman 1st Class

Acacia Oudinot

407th Air Expeditionary
Group, Ali Base

Senior NCO of the Month:

Master Sgt.

Robert Miller

732nd Expeditionary Mission
Support Group, Balad Air Base

NCO of the Month:

Staff Sgt.

Joseph Upton

447th Air Expeditionary
Group, Sather Air Base

Company Grade Officer of
the Month:

Captain Sean Haglund

506th Air Expeditionary Group,
Kirkuk Air Base



Airman 1st Class Acacia Oudinot

Encourage your family to read the:



<http://www.af.mil/library/newspapers.asp>



1st Lt. Billie Rothwell 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron, serves during a volleyball game at the Air Force Sports day.

Sports Day at Balad



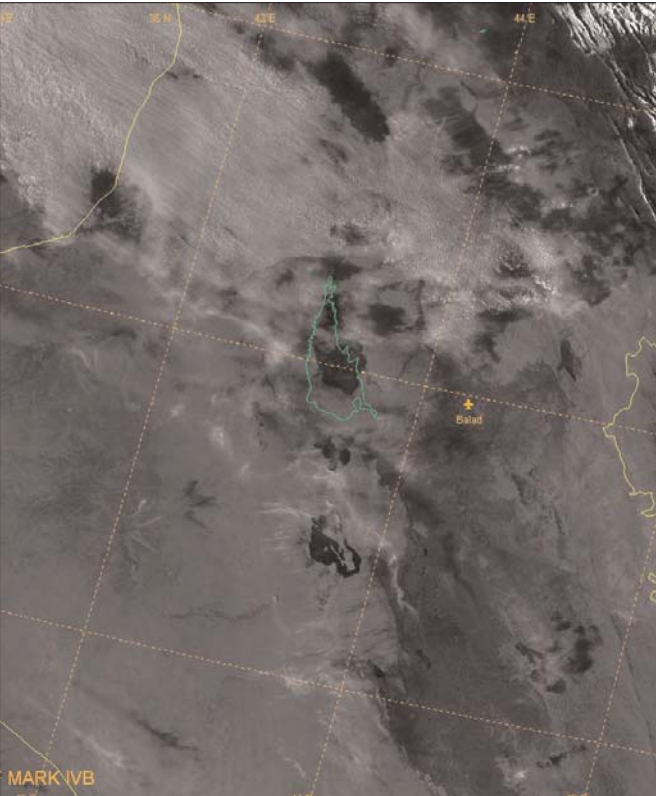
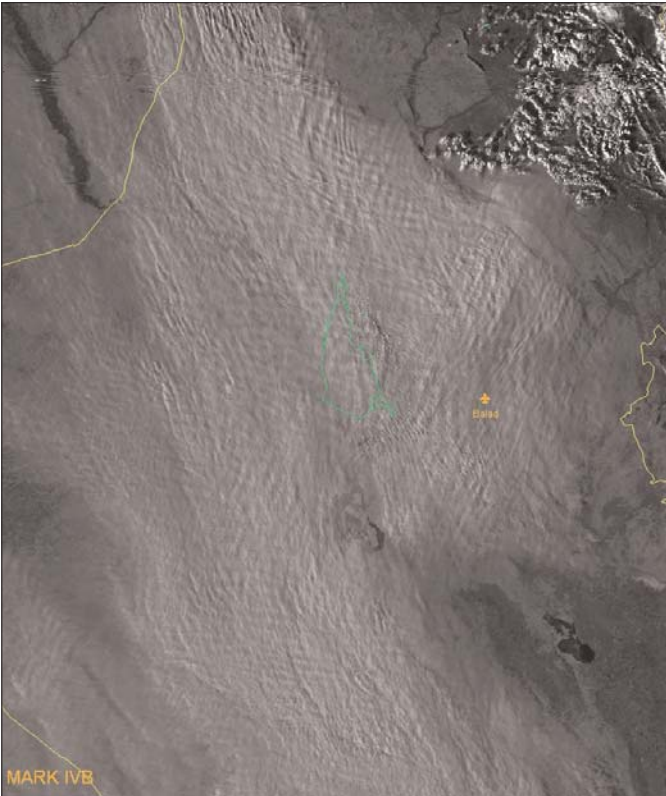
(Above): Airman of the 332nd Expeditionary Communications Squadron compete against each other during a game of volleyball Jan. 22 as part of Sports Day held here. Sports Day is held to boost the morale of Airmen and let them catch a break from their everyday hard work at Balad.

(Below): Master Sgt. Sean Bowen, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineering Squadron, plays a game of horseshoes during Sports Day.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Jessica Fuentez

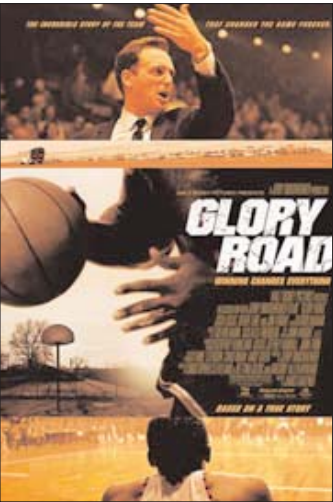
Last Look



Satellite images from polar orbiting weather satellites on Jan. 22 and 23 show extensive dust blowing from the Northwestern border of Iraq, south covering most of the country. Visibility was reduced to one half of a mile over most of the area with some locations down to one-sixteenth of a mile. Twenty four hours later, most of the dust had settled with the exception of extreme Northeastern Iraq. Dust storms are most common with north winds behind a cold front in the Winter and Spring. (Imagery and information provided by 332nd Expeditionary Operations Support Squadron Combat Weather Team.)

Sustainer movie schedule

Schedule is subject to change



Today
3 p.m. - Chicken Little
6 p.m. - Yours, Mine and Ours
9 p.m. Glory Road (Premiere showing)
Midnight - Glory Road
Saturday, Jan. 28
3 p.m. - The Legend of Zorro
6 p.m. - Glory Road
9 p.m. - Get Rich or Die Tryin'
Sunday, Jan. 29
3 p.m. - Glory Road
6 p.m. - The Legend of Zorro
9 p.m. - Yours, Mine and Ours
Monday, Jan. 30

3 p.m. - The Legend of Zorro
6 p.m. - Glory Road
9 p.m. - Jarhead
Tuesday, Jan. 31
3 p.m. - Yours, Mine and Ours
6 p.m. - Get Rich or Die Tryin'
9 p.m. - Glory Road
Wednesday, Feb. 1
3 p.m. - Jarhead
6 p.m. - Glory Road
9 p.m. - The Legend of Zorro
Thursday, Feb. 2
3 p.m. - Glory Road
6 p.m. - Jarhead
9 p.m. - Get Rich or Die Tryin'

